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Fig. 52. Plantation of Groundnuts and Maize near Bébai (Esseng Family), Southern Cameroons.

433 of groundnuts rises to ten spears (equal to 70 pfennigs) while at
435 other times only five spears (equal to 35 pfennigs) are given for
244 it. In the Jaunde region, it is true, a plate always costs 70 pfennigs (equal to 100 Jaunde spears). The groundnut is eaten simply as soup or compote. /92/ /Fig. 52 appears here in the original text./ The oil content of the nuts is not utilized to
302 any great extent, but the oil released by cooking is rubbed on the skin in order not to waste it. Finally we might mention the
524 riddle:

onǫ́n	o	nga	bē'ī	a fă'	e
(A) bird,	it	lives	give birth to	behind the house	of the
boni'ĕ:	akī'	avǭk	a	kŏke	bŏn	avūm
mothers:	egg one;	there	creep out	young ones	ten.

Answer: owŭno = groundnut.

243 Maize, Zea mays L. (fŭ'n IV), as we have said, is almost always grown with the groundnut (Fig. 52), usually as a means of marking off the individual plots and as a border against the bush all around the plantation. Farms that grow maize

243 exclusively are comparatively rare. Just like the groundnut, maize is planted in the beginning of October and matures in December. Then it is again planted in March and matures between the middle of May and July. Guess a riddle! = kándǎn.

524 I guess = kandǎ́n.

ma yěn bŏnĕnga, bō mbe ekŏ-ne, bŏnĕnga bete:
I see women, they were on a journey, women meant:

mabum a mabum
bellies – bellies.

I see women who came on a journey (that is, who formerly were not here), and they are all pregnant (the ears in the husks).

Answer: fŭ́n = maize. /93/

244 The Ngon, Cucumeropsis edulis Cogn. (ngŏ́n IV, Jaunde; ngô̌n IV Fang)

(Plate 8)

The ngon is one of the cucurbitaceous plants and has pentagonal leaves (more rarely the leaves have five lobules) with finely serrated edges. The leaves are attached to the nearly round stalk at intervals where, in addition to an occasional offshoot, usually another shoot, one or two male panicles, and occasionally a single female blossom are found. A piece of such a stalk is illustrated by Plate 8. The blossoms, jokingly called atǐ́ne kŭ̌, "turtle's feet," by the Fang, are not very large and have lemon yellow petals which are turned back. The female blossoms (d and e) are somewhat variable in size and bear a hypogenous ovary; their margin and pistil are green. As for the male blossoms (b-c), on the other hand, the stamens are yellow on top. The fruit is large, longish, and egg-shaped.

In the Fang region three varieties of ngon are distinguished. These varieties are recognizable, however, only by their fruits